

Pappas Telecasting
Companies'
'donation' of
\$325,000 in airtime
to Republican
candidates in
certain areas is yet
another example of a
powerful media group
abusing its
privileged access to
the public airwaves.

Localism is not
served when a
corporate
headquarters decides
to provide one side
in local elections a
louder voice than
others. During
election season,
local audiences
should be offered
genuine debate --
not disingenuous
offers to "purchase"
an equal amount of
response time.

Pappas uses the
public airwaves free
of charge and is
obligated by law to
serve the public
interest. Pappas'
actions are legally
questionable and
cast doubt on
whether Pappas truly
intends to serve the
public interest.
Their actions show
why we need to
strengthen media
ownership rules, not
weaken them.
Further, they show
why the license
renewal process
needs to involve
more than just a
returned postcard.

This all stems from
dropping the

"fairness doctrine"
years ago and
allowing
consolidation of
media beyond the
point that it served
any public interest.

In allowing
fairness to
disappear and
consolidation of
media into
multimedia giants,
this abuse has
occurred and will
continue to get
worse until the
public will not have
accurate
representation of
any but business
sided decisions.
This hurts the
public and the
nation.

Thank you.